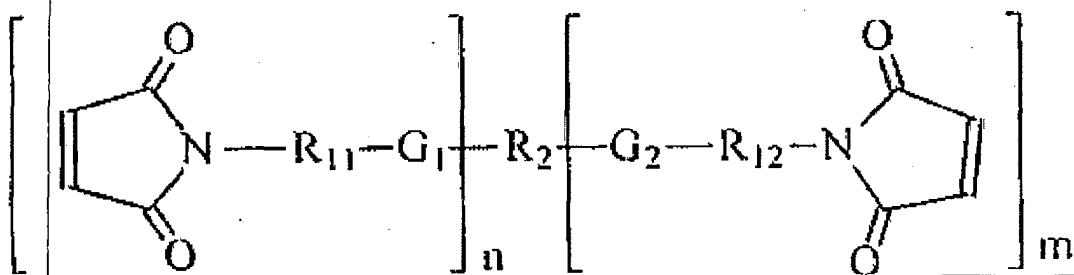


In the Claims

Claims 1 - 6 (Cancelled)

7. (Twice Amended) An active single phase water compatible actinic radiation curable composition comprising a water compatible non-emulsion, non-dispersing compound; water; and a maleimide derivative of the formula:



wherein n and m each independently represent an integer of 1 to 5, and the total of m and n is 6 or smaller;

R₁₁ and R₁₂ each independently represent a linking group selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, an alicyclic group, an arylalkylene group, and a cycloalkylalkylene group;

G₁ and G₂ each represent an ester linkage selected from the group consisting of -COO- and -OCO-;

and R₂ represents a linking chain having an average molecular weight of 100 to 100,000 selected from the group consisting of a (poly)ether or (poly)ester linking chain, in which at least one organic group consists of a group or groups selected from a straight or branched chain alkylene group, an alkylene group having a hydroxyl group, an alicyclic group, an aryl group, an arylalkylene group, and a cycloalkylalkylene group connected via at least one linkage selected from the group consisting of an ether or ester linkage.

8. (Previously Amended) The actinic radiation curable composition of Claim 7 wherein R₂ is a (poly)ether linking chain having an average molecular weight of 100 to 100,000, and incorporates repeating units containing at least one group selected from a C₆-C₂₄ aryl group.

9. (Previously Amended) The actinic radiation curable composition of Claim 8 wherein R₂ incorporates repeating units containing at least one group selected from a C₂-C₂₄ alkylene group having a hydroxyl group.

10. (Previously Amended) The actinic radiation curable composition of Claim 7 wherein R₂ is a (poly)ester linking chain having an average molecular weight of 100 to 100,000, and incorporates repeating units containing at least one group selected from a C₂-C₂₄ straight or branched chain alkylene group, a C₆-C₂₄ alkylene group having a hydroxyl group, and C₆-C₂₄ aryl group.

11. (Previously Amended) The actinic radiation curable composition of Claim 9 wherein R₂ incorporates repeating units containing at least one group selected from a C₂-C₂₄ straight or branched chain alkylene group or a C₂-C₂₄ alkylene group having a hydroxyl group.

12. (Previously Amended) The actinic radiation curable composition of Claim 7 wherein said water compatible compound is selected from the group consisting of acrylate resins; methacrylate resins; acrylic dispersions; urethane resins; vinyl alcohols; vinyl alcohol copolymers; polysaccharides; polysucrose; and glucose.

13. (Previously Amended) The actinic radiation curable composition of Claim 7 wherein said water compatible compound is a resin selected from the group consisting of acrylate and urethane resins.

14. (Previously Amended) The actinic radiation curable composition of Claim 13 wherein said acrylate resin is aliphatic epoxy acrylate.

15. (Previously Amended) The actinic radiation curable composition of Claim 13 wherein said resin urethane resin is aliphatic urethane acrylate.

16. (Previously Amended) The actinic radiation curable composition of Claim 7 further comprising a compound copolymerizable with the said maleimide derivative and water compatible compound.

17. (Previously Amended) The actinic radiation curable composition of Claim 16 wherein said copolymerizable compound incorporates at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a compound having at least one group selected from an acryloyloxy group and methacryloyloxy group, and a compound having vinyl ether group.

18. (Previously Amended) The actinic radiation curable composition of Claim 17 wherein said compound having at least one group selected from an acryloyloxy group and methacryloyloxy group incorporates at least one compound selected from (poly)ester (meth)acrylate, urethane (meth)acrylate, epoxy (meth)acrylate, (poly)ether (meth)acrylate, a (meth)acrylate having aromatic group, and a (meth)acrylate having alicyclic group.

19. (Previously Amended) The actinic radiation curable composition of Claim 17 wherein said compound having vinyl ether group incorporates at least one compound selected from the group consisting of an alkyl vinyl ether having a

terminal group substituted with at least one selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, and an amino group, a cycloalkyl vinyl ether having a terminal group substituted with at least one selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, and an amino group, and at least one vinyl ether selected from the group consisting of a monovinyl ether, a divinyl ether, and a polyvinyl ether in which a vinyl ether group is connected with alkylene group; and in which a vinyl ether group is connected with at least one group with and without substituent selected from the group consisting of alkyl group, cycloalkyl group, and aromatic group, via at least one linkage selected from the group consisting of an ether linkage, an urethane linkage, and an ester linkage.

Claims 20 – 30 (previously withdrawn)

Claims 31—40 (withdrawn)

Claim 41. (New) The actinic radiation curable composition of Claim 7 wherein said water compatible compound is selected from the group consisting of acrylate resins; methacrylate resins; acrylic dispersions; urethane resins; vinyl alcohols such as ethylene vinyl alcohol and ethylene vinyl alcohol; vinyl alcohol copolymers; polysaccharides; polysucrose; and glucose.

Claim 42. (New) The actinic radiation curable composition of Claim 7 further comprising a compound copolymerizable with the said maleimide derivative and water compatible compound.

Claim 43. (New) The actinic radiation composition of Claim 42 wherein said copolymerizable compound incorporates at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a compound having at least one group selected

from an acryloyloxy group and methacryloyloxy group, and a compound having vinyl ether group.

Claim 44. (New) The actinic radiation curable composition of Claim 43 wherein said compound having at least one group selected from an acryloyloxy group and methacryloyloxy group incorporates at least one compound selected from (poly)ester (meth)acrylate, urethane (meth)acrylate, epoxy (meth)acrylate, (poly)ether (meth)acrylate, at least one compound selected from the group consisting of an alkyl (meth)acrylate having aromatic group, and a (meth)acrylate having alicyclic group.

Claim 45. (New) The actinic radiation curable composition of Claim 44 wherein said compound having vinyl ether group incorporates at least one compound selected from the group consisting of an alkyl vinyl ether having a terminal group substituted with at least one selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, and an amino group, a cycloalkyl vinyl ether having a terminal group substituted with at least one selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, and an amino group, and at least one vinyl ether selected from the group consisting of a monovinyl ether, a divinyl ether, and a polyvinyl ether in which a vinyl ether group is connected with alkylene group; and in which a vinyl ether group is connected with at least one group with and without substituent selected from the group consisting of alkyl group, cycloalkyl group, and aromatic group, via at least one linkage selected from the group consisting of an ether linkage, and urethane linkage, and ester linkage.